

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please enter the following amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, lines 3-21 with the following paragraph:

It should be understood that, even though the card cage slots 56 are universal in size, certain card cage slots 56 may not be configured to fully receive certain circuit board modules 36. As just mentioned, the module insertion control subsystem 28 is configured to control insertion of these modules 36. In particular, when a user attempts to insert a module 36 into a particular card cage slot 56 at a front opening 70 of the card cage 30 (e.g., see the arrow 72 in connection with the module 36(2) in Fig. 1), the sensor 60 along that slot 56 senses the identifier 68 from the circuit board element 58 54 on that module 36. The sensor 60 then communicates the identifier 68 to the module insertion controller 64 which determines whether that module 36 is authorized to substantially insert into the card cage slot 56. If the module 36 is authorized to substantially insert in to the slot 56, the module insertion controller 64 directs the actuator 62 along that slot 56 to permit further module insertion. However, if the module 36 is not authorized, the controller 64 directs the actuator 62 to physically block further module insertion (i.e., the actuator 62 bars entry of the module 36 beyond a certain point along the slot 56) and outputs a warning or complaint through the output device 66 such as a visual warning (e.g., a flashing red light) and/or an audio warning (e.g., a bell or buzzer sound) to warn the user that (i) the module 36 is not authorized to insert into that slot 56 and (ii) if further insertion were otherwise permitted, damage to the module 36 and/or the backplane 32 could result.

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, line 21 through page 10, line 8 with the following paragraph:

By way of example only, suppose that the circuit board module 36(1) has circuit board connectors 46 which properly align with corresponding backplane connectors 40 of the backplane 32 in the right-most card cage slot 56 thus enabling the module 36(1) to

fully insert and connect with backplane 32 in the right-most slot 56, as shown in Fig. 1. However, further suppose that the circuit board connectors 46 of the module 36(1) do not properly align with the backplane connectors 40 in the adjacent card cage slot 56. Accordingly, if the module 36(1) were allowed to substantially insert into the adjacent slot 56, damage to the connectors 40, 46 and perhaps other components of the automatic test system 20 could result. To prevent such damage, the module insertion control subsystem 28 is capable of being configured to allow the module 36(1) in substantially insert into the right-most slot 56 but not the adjacent slot 56 by detecting the identifier 68 of the module 36(1) and determining whether the module 36(1) is authorized to insert into the adjacent slot 56 based on that identifier 68 ~~58~~. Without such operation, the module 36(1) and/or the backplane 32 could sustain damage due to substantial insertion of the module 36(1) into the adjacent slot 56.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, line 26 through page 12, line 15 with the following paragraph:

When the circuit board module 36 begins insertion into the card cage 30, the sensor 60 reads the identifier 68 from the circuit board element 58 of the module 36, and provides a sensor signal 98 in response to reading the identifier 68. The sensor signal 98 denotes the identifier 68 (e.g., a number represented by a pattern, a magnetic code, an RF tag, etc.). The module insertion controller 64 receives the sensor signal 98 from the sensor 60 and outputs a control signal 100 indicating whether the circuit board module 36 is authorized to substantially insert into the card cage 30 along the card cage slot 56. To this end, the processing circuitry 90 ~~86~~ queries the authorization database 94 to determine whether the identifier 68 corresponds with the slot 56 associated with the sensor 60 (e.g., by comparing the identifier 68 to an expected identifier in the authorization database 94 associated with the slot 56). If the identifier 68 indicates that the module 36 is authorized to substantially insert into the card cage 30 along the card cage slot 56 (e.g., if there is a match with the authorization database 94), the module insertion controller 64 provides the control signal 100 with a first value (e.g., a particular voltage level, a binary number, etc.). If the identifier 68 indicates that the module 36 is not authorized to substantially

insert into the card cage 30 along the card cage slot 56 (e.g., if there is not a match), the module insertion controller 64 provides the control signal 100 with a second value that is different than the first value.

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 2-11 with the following paragraph:

Additionally, the processing circuitry 90 86 stores the result of the query operation in the configuration database 96 (e.g., a logfile). This feature provides users of the automatic test system 20 with an operation history. For example, a user is capable of easily displaying the current configuration of circuit board modules 36 in the card cage 30 (i.e., to see which modules 36 are in which slots 56) on the display monitor 92 of the controller 64 by subsequently accessing the configuration database 96. Furthermore, the user is capable of determining how frequently module insertion was denied by the module insertion control subsystem 28 for tracking purposes. Further details of the invention will now be provided with reference to Figs. 3 and 4.